Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Characteristics of Life Brainstorming Activity**

Mrs. Krouse, PreAP Biology, 2015-2016

**Directions:** In this activity, you will travel around to various stations. At each station will be an image of either a living, a once-living (dead), or non-living (never living) thing. You will discuss the “thing” with your group members and determine whether it is living, once-living, or non-living. You will record 3-4 reasons for your decision. Ultimately, your reasons will help us to determine the characteristics of life, or the set of traits that all living things share. A “thing” must possess all the characteristics of life to be considered living. Depending on which scientific resource you consult, there are anywhere between seven and nine characteristics of life.

Your reasons can be repeated from image to image, but try to come up with new reasons when you can.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Image #** | **“Thing” Shown in Image (aka Image Title)** | **Living, Once-Living, or Non-Living?** | **Reasons for Your Decision (3-4 required!)** |
| 1 |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  |

Once you have completed all the stations, use your “reasons” to record a list of potential characteristics shown by all living things. You must have at least six characteristics in your list.

**Characteristics of Life Early List:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5. | 6.  7.  8.  9. |

**Follow-Up Questions:** Answer the following questions thoroughly and accurately in complete sentences.

1. Did you change any of your “living, once-living, or non-living” classifications for the image activity after the class discussion? Why did you make these changes?
2. After discussing your Characteristics of Life Early List with the class, what characteristics did you REMOVE from your list? Why did you remove these characteristics from your list?

After the class discussion, create a Characteristics of Life Revised List in the space below.

**Characteristics of Life Revised List:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5. | 6.  7.  8.  9. |